

## A "NANCY SIKES" FOUND IN REAL LIFE.

She Is Young and Beautiful and Was Living with Thieves.

Police Unearth a Squalid East Side Den and Find Mrs. Annie Beck in Charge.

SHE GAVE POINTS TO DETECTIVES.

Five of the Thieves Soon Caught—Mrs. Beck, Wife of the Leader, Says She Is a Police Captain's Niece. The Men Held.

Five burglars and all-round crooks, whose record of crime is scarcely less repulsive than their general appearance, were held in \$1,500 each in Harlem Police Court yesterday.

Seated in the body of the court was an extremely pretty young girl, elegantly attired and of refined speech and manners. She looked like a young society beauty who had drifted into that clearing house of crime and seemed entirely out of place amidst the tough and vicious surroundings. Yet she claimed to be the wife of the leader of the gang, a hideous little creature, seemingly of Chinese origin, curiously resembling the notorious George Applegate, and she was known to have acted as a modern Nancy Sikes to these New York prototypes of the artful dodger, Charley Bates and other graduates of old Fagin's school.

Early Sunday morning last N. Levin's clothing store, at No. 1437 Third avenue, was entered and \$150 worth of goods were stolen. The burglars had obtained access to a cellar beneath the store, and after erecting a scaffold of planks they had bored through the floor until a hole large enough to creep through had been made. Throats and other articles were taken, also the proprietor's hat, an old and broken one being left in its place.

THE RINGDOORS LOCATED. Detectives Grady and Powell, of the East Eighty-fifth Street Station, obtained a clew which led them on Tuesday night to No. 328 East Seventy-seventh street. Here is a large flat-house, the basement of which is not occupied. Approaching their way through this basement, in the darkness, at the rear they found a perfect rookery of squalor and vice, presided over by the beautiful-eyed girl of eighteen or twenty, who claimed to be the wife of the leader of the gang, an ex-convict named Maurice Beck.

The pair were found together in a small room containing only one bed and very little furniture. They were arrested on suspicion, and admitted that the room was also occupied by Dan Murphy, aged twenty-one, Tom Blason, aged twenty-nine, John McGrath, aged twenty, and Jim Zart, of the same age. Annie Beck, the modest, reserved, lady-like girl, told the officers where much of the stolen property had been pawned, and she was set at liberty, while her supposed husband was taken to the police station. She remained in the room with the officers, awaiting the return of the rest of the gang, who, she explained, were probably paying a professional visit to some store in the neighborhood.

SHE REVEALED THEM. The woman told the detectives the signals which would herald their return, and a knock on Wednesday morning they arrived, making a peculiar scratching noise



The Den Presided Over by a Modern "Nancy Sikes."

The picture in the upper left hand corner of this sketch is that of Mrs. Annie Beck, wife of the leader of an East Side gang of thieves and a woman of refined manners. She says she comes from a respected family and is the niece of a police captain in this city.

That portion of the fireplace indicated by a Maltese cross is where the thieves hid most of their plunder in the squalid tenement where they were captured on information furnished by Mrs. Beck.

On the door. As soon as the door was opened they were immediately seized, and a lively struggle ensued, during which pretty Annie sat coolly and calmly on the bed. Pistols had to be drawn before they capitulated, when they were found in possession of flummies, chisels, bits and a full burglar's outfit. One of them wore the identical hat belonging to Mr. Levin.

No pawn tickets were discovered, but the stolen clothing was found to have been pawned, exactly as described by pretty Annie.

Yesterday morning the five crooks were taken to Police Headquarters, and all were identified as ex-convicts of the worst character. Benson returned only three months ago from serving five years for trading in counterfeit bills.

They were arraigned yesterday afternoon before Magistrate Crane, in Harlem Police Court, and all pleaded not guilty, although Detective Grady testified that Beck had confessed and given the gang away on Tuesday night before their arrest. Annie Beck had obtained an order to see her husband from the Commissioner of Correction and patiently awaited an opportunity to speak with the ill-favored little crook, whom she avowed she loved dearly. She was perfectly willing to talk of him and his accomplices in crime, and she spoke in the polished English of a thoroughly educated girl.

DEFENDS HER HUSBAND. "Maurice is not so bad," she said, "and although we courted for three years and have been legally married four months, I never knew him to be in trouble before. You may rely upon my word that he had no hand in that robbery, although the

young men with whom he associates were probably concerned. "That man Benson is at the bottom of all this trouble, and of course I was aware that he had recently been in State Prison, but what could I do? I was powerless to prevent their misdeeds. "Yes, I gave the officers the signals and assisted them as far as I could. I am sure they will find that my Maurice is innocent. "I would wish it to be understood that there can be no scandal attaching to me and these other men. I am legally married to Maurice. I love him with all my heart, and I have always been true to him. "I cannot tell you my maiden name, as that would bring disgrace upon my family, who are well known and respected, and the disgrace of this would kill them. My uncle is a Police Captain and I have lived all my life in Yorkville, where I was born. "When Benson was drawn up, she was found consorting with a gang of thieves in a squalid and filthy hotel, she smiled and her teeth revealing the most perfect little teeth, and said:

"Well, I loved my husband, you know. Or, I knew he used to run a policy game, but that made no difference. My people are well off, and he could have the best counsel in the city if he chose to let them know of our trouble, but I cannot do that. "Oh, do you think they will let me see him to-day, if only for a moment? Her big black eyes had such a bewitchingly pleading expression that it is small wonder she had her wish immediately after the Magistrate had disposed of the case.

MRS. BECK'S APPEARANCE. Mrs. Annie Beck was dressed yesterday in a quiet but tasteful manner, with a dainty black hat and neat veil, a close-fitting coat and dark frock. She wore a broad, plain gold band on the third finger of her left hand.

The investigation of the case against Agnes Renshaw and her colored accomplices, Henry Wilson, alias Howard Johnson, and his confederate, William King, who were charged with various burglaries, was held in Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday before Judge Kudlich.

MAGISTRATE KUDLICH PRESIDED. Alice Renshaw Held in \$2,000 and Wilson and King in \$3,500 Each for Trial. Stolen Property Appraised at \$10,030.

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## TWO GEMS BELONG TO MRS. BARNES

She Testified Yesterday of the Diamond Robbery in Her Residence Dec. 28.

The Case of the Three Suspects Was Heard in Jefferson Market Police Court.

MAGISTRATE KUDLICH PRESIDED.

Alice Renshaw Held in \$2,000 and Wilson and King in \$3,500 Each for Trial. Stolen Property Appraised at \$10,030.

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One round brooch set with turquoise and diamonds ..... 400  
One miniature head pin set with diamonds ..... 250  
One blue enamel ring set with diamonds ..... 200  
One opal ring set with diamonds ..... 200  
One emerald ring set with diamonds ..... 200  
One emerald ring set with four diamonds ..... 200  
One emerald ring set with two rows of diamonds ..... 200  
One ruby and diamond ring ..... 200  
One ruby and diamond ring ..... 200  
One solitary diamond ring ..... 200  
One emerald ring ..... 200  
One pearl and diamond necklace clasp ..... 200  
One diamond ring set with one onyx ..... 200  
One bracelet set with diamonds ..... 200  
One strand bracelet ..... 200  
One chain of gold cat heads ..... 200  
One gold hairpin ..... 200  
One pure gold chain ..... 200  
One sealskin cape ..... 200  
Total ..... \$10,030

Mrs. Barnes in her affidavit alleges that two of the diamonds found by the detectives are hers, and stated that on or about December 30 last she had the rest by Charles E. Mather, a diamond expert, of No. 21 Maiden lane. Mr. Mather has since the recovery examined them and positively identified them as hers. One set for Mrs. Barnes about the time she mentioned.

On the case was called Assistant District Attorney Battle appeared for the people. The charges were read, and in them Agnes Renshaw is accused of receiving stolen property, and the other two defendants are charged with burglary.

THE FIRST WITNESS. Detective Michael J. Reilly took the stand and testified that he was attached to the Central Office. He stated that he arrested the defendant, Henry Wilson, at 12:30 p. m., December 31, on East Eighty-fourth street, between Lexington and Third avenues. That night, at 12:30, he arrested William King at Third and Thompson streets, in the district known as Little Africa. He went to the "rooms," at No. 119 East Eighty-fourth street, he said, and found a large quantity of valuable jewelry, as well as a set of burglar's tools. He also found an unset diamond weighing 1 1/2 carats. This he discovered in the bottom of a bureau drawer which contained the clothing of Agnes Renshaw.

The jewel was in a small purse and was concealed between the paper covering the bottom of the drawer and the wooden bottom. He then described in detail all of the jewelry he found there.

Another unset diamond, he said, was found on William King when arrested. This was discovered between the outside hat band and hat, and weighed 1 1/2 carats. He said that Wilson lived at No. 119 East Eighty-fourth street in the night side of the ground floor. The detective identified the two unset diamonds as those taken from defendants and described the character of the burglar tools. There was a brace and bit, a panel saw, a compass and a key lifter. The latter was used for opening doors from the outside while the key was on the inside of the lock. He said, further, that he went back to Wilson's house that night, and about 10:30 saw Agnes Renshaw walking up the stoop.

He arrested her, and told her she would have to go to Headquarters. She consented and said she expected it. She said that she knew Wilson, but would not admit that she was living with him. When he took her into the house her mother reproached her and said, "That's what you get for living with this dirty negro thief." Mrs. Renshaw said this in the girl's presence, but she made no reply.

MRS. BARNES TESTIFIES. Mrs. Frances Barnes, a comely-looking woman, was then sworn, and gave her age as thirty-seven years. She said that she lived at No. 239 Central Park West, and that on the night of December 28, between the hours of 8:30 and 7 o'clock, her house was entered.

The bedroom, she said, was on the third floor, and her jewelry was in the bureau drawer in that apartment. She examined two unset diamonds and positively identified them as belonging to her and as the gems which had been seen that night. She said she had no knowledge of the color of diamonds, but in this instance saw the jewels because one of them was oblong and had a flaw in the center disc. The other stone was somewhat round, but could not be designated as perfectly so, and both of them had been contained in the same ring.

The ring, she explained, was set on December 20 by Charles E. Mather, and when she asked him at that time if the flaws would show when set he said they would not. She saw them last at 8:30 on the afternoon of the robbery. She then removed the ring and another from her fingers and put them in her bureau drawer and sat down and read until 6:30, when she went to dinner. She knew that all of her jewelry was then in the drawer, because she was careless about her manner of keeping them, and the tops of the cases were broken off and the jewels were always exposed. In addition to this she had examined all of them the night before and none of them were missing.

"NO CASE," SAYS McLAUGHLIN. The prosecution closed here and Attorney McLaughlin moved for the discharge of the defendants, alleging that they had in no way been connected with the burglary at Mrs. Barnes's residence and there was no case against them.

Justice Kudlich thought differently and held Wilson and King in \$3,500 bail each, and the girl, Agnes Renshaw, in \$2,000 bail.

Mrs. Barnes was asked if she had ever seen any of the defendants before and replied that she did not remember to have, but that her son Thomas thought he recognized Henry Wilson as a waiter who had served them during the past summer at the Prospect Hotel, Shelter Island, where Mrs. Barnes and her family spent a few weeks.

Captain O'Brien, of the Central Office, testified that he had identified one of the stolen property, and when asked if any pawn tickets had been found, replied that this class of criminals never pawned goods, but sold them outright. He added, however, that one man partially identified a chain and bangle found in Wilson's room. It was not positive, and he did not bring his wife down this morning to see if she can identify them.

MRS. BARNES'S FAMILY HISTORY. Mrs. Barnes is originally from Ellicottville, N. Y. Her maiden name was Frances Mudgett. Her father was a farmer in modest circumstances, and when she formed an attachment for a Mr. Sears her family interposed serious objections. She finally married him, but it was not a happy union. Two children were born, and the Sears's habits became so unbearable that his wife instituted divorce proceedings. Mrs. Sears was an accomplished woman, and while she was pining for a divorce she supported herself and children by teaching music.

At this point Lawyer James W. McLaughlin, who represented the defendants, interposed an objection, claiming that the clerk had no right to ask these questions, and refused to allow his clients to answer further. The Justice sustained the point, and the business of the other defendants was not ascertained. It was known, however, that William King was an old offender, and the police have his record down pretty fine.

When the warrants had been sworn to, it was discovered that in Reilly's warrant he had omitted to allege the ownership of large property, and it had to be rewritten. This occasioned considerable delay. When the papers were satisfactorily prepared, the following complete list of the property alleged to have been taken from Mrs. Barnes was contained in them:

THE STOLEN JEWELRY.  
One diamond pin worth ..... \$500  
One pearl and diamond bar pin ..... 200  
One diamond earring ..... 1,200  
One pearl and diamond horseshoe pin ..... 200  
One horseshoe pin set ..... 200  
One white enamel and diamond pin ..... 200  
One diamond and ruby bar pin ..... 400  
One Roman pin infold ..... 50  
One diamond and ruby set pin ..... 200  
One emerald black pin set with pearls ..... 50  
One pink pearl set with diamonds ..... 150

HE SAW A MAN ON THE ROOF. Captain Drake Adds a New Feature to the Interesting Burden Case.

The capture of the two negro thieves to whom the robbery of Mrs. Barnes's jewels is attributed has but increased the keenness of Acting Captain O'Brien in his quest for the thieves of a higher caliber who got away with Mrs. L. Townsend Burdett's money and jewels.

Some information was obtained yesterday, however, that may throw an entirely new aspect upon the supposed method of access to and exit from the Burden home.

Hotel Brunswick is two stories higher than the Burden residence next door, and there are several rooms in the hotel the windows of which command a view of the Burden roof and chimney pots. On the night of the robbery, which was Friday, December 27, Captain Drake, who is manager of the Hotel Brunswick, was in the hotel, and occupied one of these rooms. He went to bed late that night and without knowing anything of the diamond robbery.

He was doing there, but could see but indistinctly, and is uncertain exactly where the man disappeared. With the idea of avoiding any notoriety Captain Drake did not notify the police. He did, however, tell a number of acquaintances, and said that it was about 2 a. m. that he had seen the man.

The robbery was discovered shortly before midnight, and by 2 a. m. police from the West Thirtieth Street station and Central Office detectives were swarming over the yards and roofs in every direction. It may have been one of these Drake saw, but it is within the bounds of possibility that a robber remained concealed until 2 a. m. or later. Systematic inquiry yesterday at all the houses on the north side of Twenty-sixth street from the roof of the Burden roof could not be reached did not bring to light any one who remembered that any man or men had gained access to the roofs upon any previous Friday or for two or three days before that.

Mrs. Burden's safe, from which the diamonds were stolen, was removed from the house at 2 o'clock yesterday and taken to a safe company's warehouse, where the lock will be carefully examined by experts. The examination may reveal whether or not an impression has been taken of the lock.

NO POLICE TO PROTECT. Residents on Madison and Fifth Avenues Are Alarmed.

Following closely upon the Burden diamond robbery, a number of small burglaries and petty thefts have put the sections of Fifth and Madison avenues between Twenty-sixth and Thirty-fourth

streets in a state of alarm. The residents are complaining of insufficient protection, and say that those avenues are filled with sneak thieves.

A few evenings ago the house at No. 251 Fifth avenue, owned by Mrs. S. L. Emory, who lives at No. 214 West Thirty-fourth street, was entered by burglars and about \$300 worth of clothing, jewelry and valuables were stolen. The building of the Ohio Society, at No. 234 Madison avenue, was also entered recently by sneak thieves, and a number of articles were taken. There was a disturbance at No. 273 Madison avenue, a few nights ago on account of the unsuccessful efforts of burglars to enter that place.

BOLD MASKED ROBBERS. They Blow Open a Railroad Safe, Capture a Small Sum of Money and Make Their Escape.

Schenectady, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Five masked burglars entered the Delaware & Hudson Railroad freight office in this city at midnight last night. Leaving one on guard at the door at the foot of the stairs, the other four went to the office above, and the first thing the night watchman knew four revolvers were held to his head. He was quickly overpowered, bound and gagged. Leaving him on the floor, the burglars proceeded to blow open the safe.

After three ineffectual attempts, they picked the watchman up, and saying they did not want to kill him, they laid him in the private office and put in a fourth charge, which blew the safe nearly in atoms. They secured about \$80 in cash and made their escape. The last explosion was heard by a policeman a couple of blocks away who found the watchman and released him.

The robbers were evidently well acquainted with matters connected with the business, for it is usual to have quite a sum of money at the office about the first of the month. There are no clues to the robbers.

Fifty Machine Guns Ordered. Washington, Jan. 2.—As a result of the recent tests of the automatic machine guns of the same calibre as the navy small arm, the naval ordnance bureau has ordered fifty of the guns submitted by the Colt Manufacturing Company. An opportunity will be given the manufacturers of the Nordenfiedt and Hotchkiss guns to submit their inventions for another test after some alterations in their construction have been made.

## FEAR HALLENBACH STILL

His Release on Bail to Be Vigorously Opposed by the Robinson Family.

Claimed by the Victim's Brother That He May Make Another Attempt at Murder.

THE ENTRY FOUND AT THE HOTEL.

"J. Lee and Wife, Jersey City," Was What the Injured Husband Went There to See—Mrs. Hallenbach's Efforts for His Freedom.

Edward Hallenbach, who planned to kill William T. Robinson, his wife and himself, will, through Lawyer Emanuel M. Friend, to-day make a fight for his release on bail.

This will be strenuously opposed by members of the Robinson family. Henry Robinson, a brother of the wounded man, said yesterday:

"Not only will we push this case against Hallenbach as hard as we can, but when the